GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2799
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2002
MILLENNIUM EXPRESS
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have finally taken the first step towards the privatisation of the railways as reported in the `Hindustan Times` dated December 11, 2001 captioned, `Railway Privatisation and Journey begins with Millennium Express;

(b) if so, the terms of agreement so reached between the railways and the private party;

(c) the amount likely to be earned by railways per annum therefrom;

(d) whether the Government propose to introduce such private trains in other sectors also; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIST RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL)

(a) & (b): Millennium Parcel Express is part of the larger marketing strategy to involve cargo aggregators to use Railways for the long-haul and bring back small-volume, high-value cargo to the Railways. The terms of agreement between Railway and the cargo aggregator provide for running time tabled weekly parcel express trains on leased basis between Turbhe and Shalimar. The contract has been finalised through open tender to the highest bidder for running this service for a period of three years.

(c) The annual earnings from the Millennium Parcel Express between Turbhe & Shalimar is Rs. 5 crores approximately.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Proposals for similar services between Delhi-Mumbai and Bangalore-Delhi are under consideration at present.